

is the reason. It doesn't have anything to do with partisan politics or with any other bill before this Legislature. And why do I believe that state spending will increase at an accelerated pace upon the passage of LB 169? Very simple reason, very simply because the Legislature is a body, does not have the incentive to reduce tax rates that the State Board of Equalization has. In this body the responsibility for tax rates will be diffused among 49 people, whereas the State Board of Equalization is a small body of five who historically have reduced and will continue to reduce tax rates at the earliest possible opportunity. It is much more politically advantageous for them to keep the rates low than it is for the Legislature as a whole. I submit that we are playing into the hands of those who embrace the philosophy of tax, tax, tax, spend, spend, spend. This state has a history of increases and decreases of the sales and income tax rates and that is as it should be. The rates have fluctuated in response to the health of the economy and in response to the needs of the state. This fluctuation indicates that the present system is working properly. It is not a perfect system. No one will deny that it has its flaws but it is working better than it will work if the Legislature sets these rates. I predict that with the passage of LB 169 there will never again be a reduction in the sales or income tax rates in this state. Now just think about it. Do you really believe that this body will ever reduce tax rates? I think you know in your heart of hearts that a reduction will never occur, so I repeat, I predict that with the passage of this bill there will never again be a reduction in sales or income tax rates in the state. So, finally, in the name of fiscal responsibility, in the name of conservative responsive government, I ask you to vote against this bill. I ask that the motion be withdrawn.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The motion is withdrawn. Do you have anything else, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, for what purpose do you arise?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Lamb just got up and made a motion, made quite a lengthy speech against this bill and then withdrew the motion. I had my light on to speak against his motion. Now if he withdraws the motion, does that mean we don't get a chance to rebut?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Yes, that's right. If you want to do the same thing you may and withdraw your motion but on Final Reading...or....